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Message Text

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51
ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SWF-01 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W
---------- 085790
R 011535Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2195
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONGEN MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3052

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, HU
SUBJ: HUNGARIAN HARVEST SITUATION

REF: BUDAPEST 2913 AGRICULTURE ATTACHE' STATE PASS
AGRICULTURE FOR FAS; VIENNA FOR

1. ALTHOUGH CLEAR WEATHER HAS PREVAILED IN HUNGARY DURING
LAST THREE DAYS, HEAVY RAINS DURING PERIOD FORM OCT 20-27
CONTINUED TO MAKE PROSPECTS FOR FALL HARVESTING AND PLANTING
UNCERTAIN. FROM OCT 20-27, 25-50 MM OF RAIN FELL THROUGH-
OUT COUNTRY WITH UP TO 80 MM RECORDED IN CERTAIN AREAS.
RAIN CONTINUES TO SLOW HARVESTING EFFORT, AS OF OCT 29
ONLY ONE-THIRD OF RICE CROP, 56 PERCENT OF SUGAR BEETS AND
27 PERCENT OF CORN HAVE BEEN COLLECTED. WHILE HARVESTING OF
GRAPES, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES HAS BEEN NEARLY COMPLETED, THE
BAD WEATHER IS CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN REGARDING QUALITY
OF THIS YEAR'S GRAPE, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROPS.
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2. PLANTING OF FALL GRAINS ALSO CONTINUES TO PROGRESS SLOWLY. TO DATE 170,000 HECTARES OF GRAIN HAVE BEEN PLANTED, 150,000 OF WHICH WERE WHEAT. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT WHEAT PLANTING IS APPROXIMATELY ONLY 30 PERCENT FINISHED, ALTHOUGH IN CERTAIN IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES SUCH AS SOMOGY ONLY 15 PERCENT OF PLANTING HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT. IN COMPARISON 80 PERCENT OF FALL PLANTING HAD BEEN FINISHED LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME.

3. HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS CONTACTED BY EMBASSY GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY ESTIMATES CONCERNING EXPECTED SIZE OF ALL CROPS. MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IS THAT OF PLANTING AS OPTIMAL PERIOD FOR FALL PLANTING HAS ALREADY PASSED, AND IN SPITE OF SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN WEATHER MUDDY CONDITIONS IN FIELDS CONTINUE TO PREVENT RAPID PROGRESS IN PLANTING WORK. A FAIR FALL CORN HARVEST MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE PROVIDED THERE ARE NO SERIOUS FROSTS DURING PERIOD OF NEXT TWO WEEKS.
PEDERSEN

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